



October 23, 2009

Senator Ben Nelson  
720 Hart  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Proposed Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing to request your strong support for the creation of a Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College for the purpose of training wind energy technicians. As an alumnus and supporter of Western Nebraska Community College, I know that it is an ideal institution to support such a venture. As a business owner in western Nebraska, I believe that this type of project is important to the vitality of our panhandle communities, as it will not only provide economic development and employment opportunities, it will strengthen the college, which is a critical component of Western Nebraska's communities.

A Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College will provide quality training and job opportunities for Nebraskans. As you are aware, the Nebraska panhandle has exceptional potential for wind energy and one of the industry leaders is already planning a large facility in Banner County. The industry currently has employment opportunities for qualified wind energy technicians and the job potential is only likely to increase in the future.

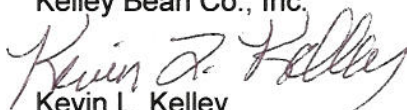
Western Nebraska Community College is an ideally positioned institution for a Wind Energy Training Center. The institution is located in one of the best geographical areas in the country for wind energy generation. Further, a wind technician program would fit together with the institution's aviation maintenance program, which has been successfully offered to students for approximately 30 years. The curriculums for both programs include courses in electronics, electrical systems, turbine repair and maintenance, programmable logic controllers and troubleshooting.

Industry partners will be a critical part of a wind energy technician program and Western Nebraska Community College already has relationships established with many regional public and private electrical power companies, who have helped to build and continue to support the college's power line technician program. The college also has established a successful track record of working cooperatively with industry partners to build quality and innovative programs in other fields, such as Cabela's, for a retail training program, and Regional West Medical Center, for nursing and health care training.

Please consider supporting a Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College. It has great potential and is a project to get behind now.

Sincerely,

Kelley Bean Co., Inc.

  
Kevin L. Kelley  
Vice President of Sales